

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ecological Site Description

Site name: HUMID COASTAL HILLS

Site number: R-272ZY024PR

Major Land Resource Area: 272 Humid Coastal Plains

Interstate correlation: NONE

Physiographic features: Elevation of this site ranges from sea level to 2100 ft rising gradually from the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean to the hilly karst area to the south. The area is divided in two distinct zones; the flat alluvial plains and terraces along the coast and the irregular features of the karst limestone inland. Average annual precipitation is 1600mm, and average annual temperature 25°C.

Climatic features

Frost-free period: 365 DAYS

Freeze-free period: 365 DAYS

Mean annual precipitation: 54 INCHES

Mean annual air temperature: 78°F

Mean annual soil temperature:

Monthly moisture and temperature distribution:

	Mean Precipitation (inches)	Percent Precipitation (%)	Mean Temperature (°F)
January	4.42	8.17	75
February	2.69	4.97	74
March	2.46	4.54	75
April	4.45	8.23	77
May	5.10	9.43	79
June	4.29	7.93	80
July	3.75	6.93	80
August	4.10	7.58	81
September	4.85	8.96	80
October	5.03	9.30	80
November	6.13	11.34	78
December	6.80	12.57	76
Mean annual	54.07		78°F

Other climatic features: A rainy season prevails from July to November and a pronounced dry season occurs during the remainder of the year. Hurricanes are most

likely to occur August through November, and are characterized by strong winds and torrential rains.

Associated water features: Surface and ground water are plentiful. Surface water consists of runoff from rainfall in the humid uplands.

Elevation aspect: 150-to1500 ft.

Percent Slope: 5 to 40

Soils: Soils of this site are deep, moderately well drained. They are formed from fine textured sediments of mixed origin. Reaction ranges from strongly to very strongly acid. The soils are on gently sloping rolling hills and footslopes.

Major Soil Taxonomic Units correlated to this site include:

Cabo Rojo, CaC
Cabo Rojo, CaC2

Plant communities: The site consists primarily of stoloniferous grasses in nearly pure stands. The site contains occasional trees and thickets in depressions or at the foot of rock outcrops. It exists on the undulating limestone lands of the coastal plains.

Major plant species composition: Grasses make up to 91%, forbs 8% and trees 1% of the vegetative composition.

GRASSES AND GRASSLIKES

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For Group
AXCO	Carpet grass	1			
CEEC	Southern sandbur	1			
DAAE	Crowfoot grass	1			
DIHO	Jamaica finger grass	1			
DISA	Pendejuelo	1			
PANO3	Bahia grass	1			
RHNE	Stargrass	1			
SEGE	Knotroot bristlegrass	1			
SPIN4	Whorled dropseed	1			
STSE	St Augustine	1			

FORBS

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
ADLA3	Yerba hedionda	2			
ALVA2	False moneywort	2			
ASCU	Bastard ipecac	2			
ATTU2	Verdolaga	2			
BICY	Black manzanilla	2			
BIPI	Sheperd's needle	2			
BLECH	Yerba de papagallo	2			
BOVE	Botoncillo	2			
BRPU13	Conchita	2			
BRVI5	Flor de conchitas	2			
CAOB5	Dormidera	2			
CENO	Dama de noche	2			
CHHY3	Lechera	2			
CISI2	Pinakoop	2			
COPO3	Black sage	2			
CRRE4	Rattleweed	2			
ELMD5	Lengua de vaca	2			
HYDE3	Coqui	2			
INSU	Anil	2			
JAGO	Tautaba	2			
JAJA	Aguinaldo de costa	2			
LACA2	Yellow sage	2			
MACO6	Soapbush	2			
PSSP4	Yerba de burro	2			
SICA17	wireweed	2			
STHA	Tick trefoil	2			
TRYO	Stinging vine	2			
WETR	Manzanilla de playa	2			

Shrubs and Trees

Scientific Symbol	Common Name	Group	Pounds per Acre	Percent by Weight	Percent Allowed For group
ACR14	Catch & Keep	3			
CASY2	Laurel	3			
CLRO	Balsam fig	3			
DRIL	Rosewood	3			
ELVI7	Jaboncillo	3			
EUBU2	Anguila	3			
EUHE4	Pascua	3			
EULA12	Pitangueira	3			
EUPR4	Rock mirtle	3			
EXRE	Bejuco colorado	3			
FILA2	Jagueillo	3			
HIVO	Bejuco prieto	3			
LACAA	Cariaquillo espinoso	3			
MACO11	Azotacaballo	3			
MILA8	Camasey	3			
PIAD	Higuillo de hoja menuda	3			
POPE18	Monkey hand	3			
PSGU	Guava	3			
RAAC	Christsmas tree	3			
SEPO4	Basquetwood	3			
SOTO4	Turkey berry	3			

Ground Cover and Structure

	Height Above the Ground											
	Not applicable		6 to 12 inches		12 to 24 inches		24 to 60 inches		60 to 80 inches		180 to 240 inches	
	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover	% Ground cover	% Canopy cover
Trees											1	5
Shrubs												
Grasses and grasslikes							15	85				
Forbs					1	10						
Cryptogams												
Coarse fragments												
Bare ground												
Litter												

Transition Pathways: The native vegetation is generally very aggressive and often crowds out other vegetation. However, when subject to heavy grazing, they are replaced by hurricane or kleberg grasses. If abusive grazing persists, a pure stand of hurricane will prevail.

Total annual production: 7000 lbs/acre

Plant Growth Curves:

Growth curve number:

Growth curve name: PR PLANT GROWTH CURVE

Growth curve description: Native and naturalized grasslands.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	5	4	7	12	10	9	10	11	10	9	7

Animal Community:

This site is important for several wildlife species. Major species using the site include:

Black rail
Cattle egret
Key west quali dove
Killdeer
Lesser golden plover
Northern bobwhite
Puerto rican lizard cuckoo

Red jungle fowl
Smooth billed ani
West indian whistling duck
White rumped sandpiper
Zenaida dove

Associated sites:

Similar sites

Plant communities, production, and vigor of this site is not similar enough to other sites in the region to cause a problem or concern.

Site documentation

Author: M. Montes, E. Más

Revised: 05/2002, E. Más, J. Lugo, S. Ríos

Supporting data for site development: Supporting data include clipping studies, and historical writing of the area. More documentation and study are needed to fully understand this site and the transitions that occur.

Sampling techniques

SCS-Range 417

Type locality:

Field Offices: Mayagüez, San Sebastián, San Germán

References:

USDA, NRCS. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

USDA, SCS. Soil Survey's

Site Approval:

This site has been reviewed and approved for use:

USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist

Date

